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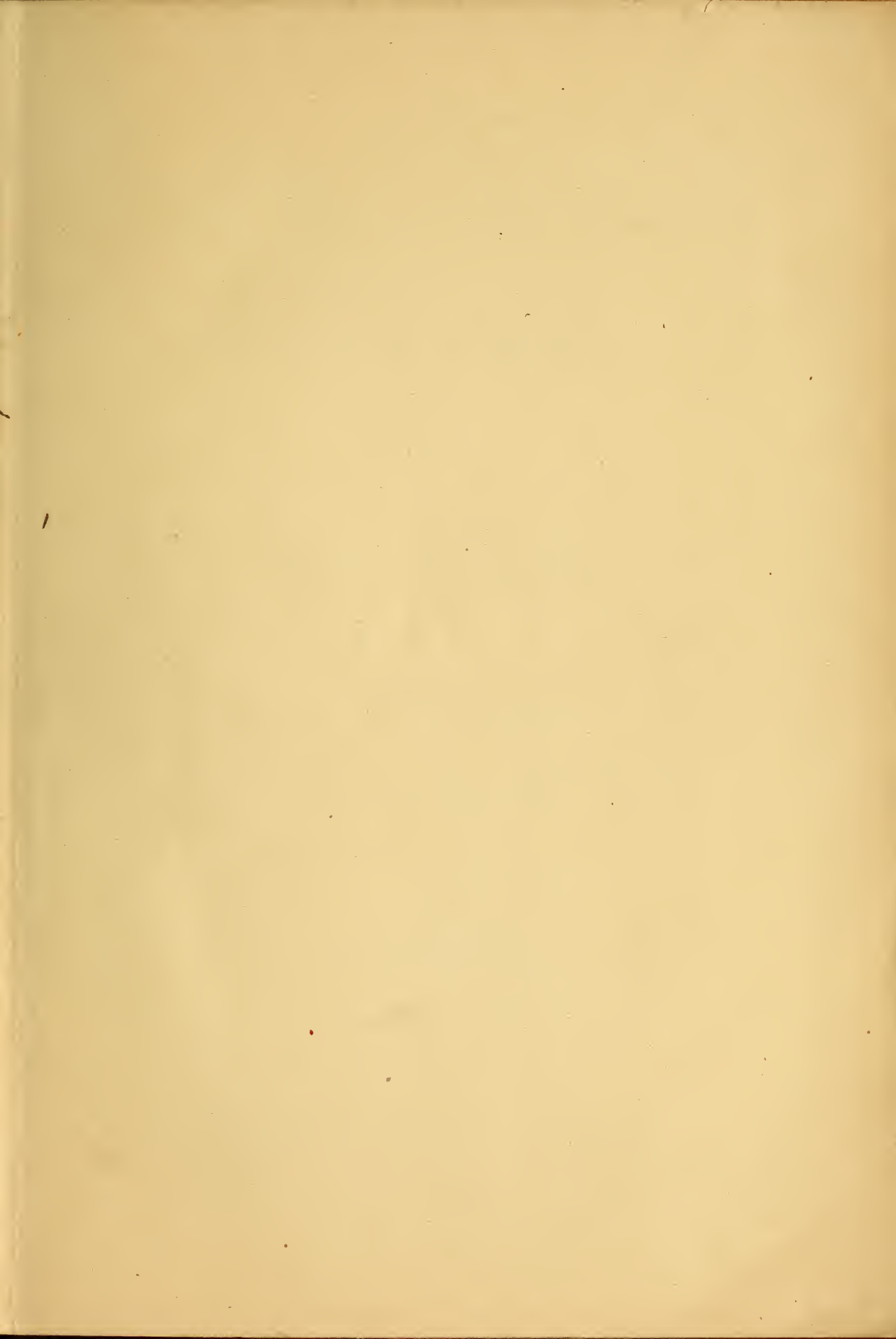
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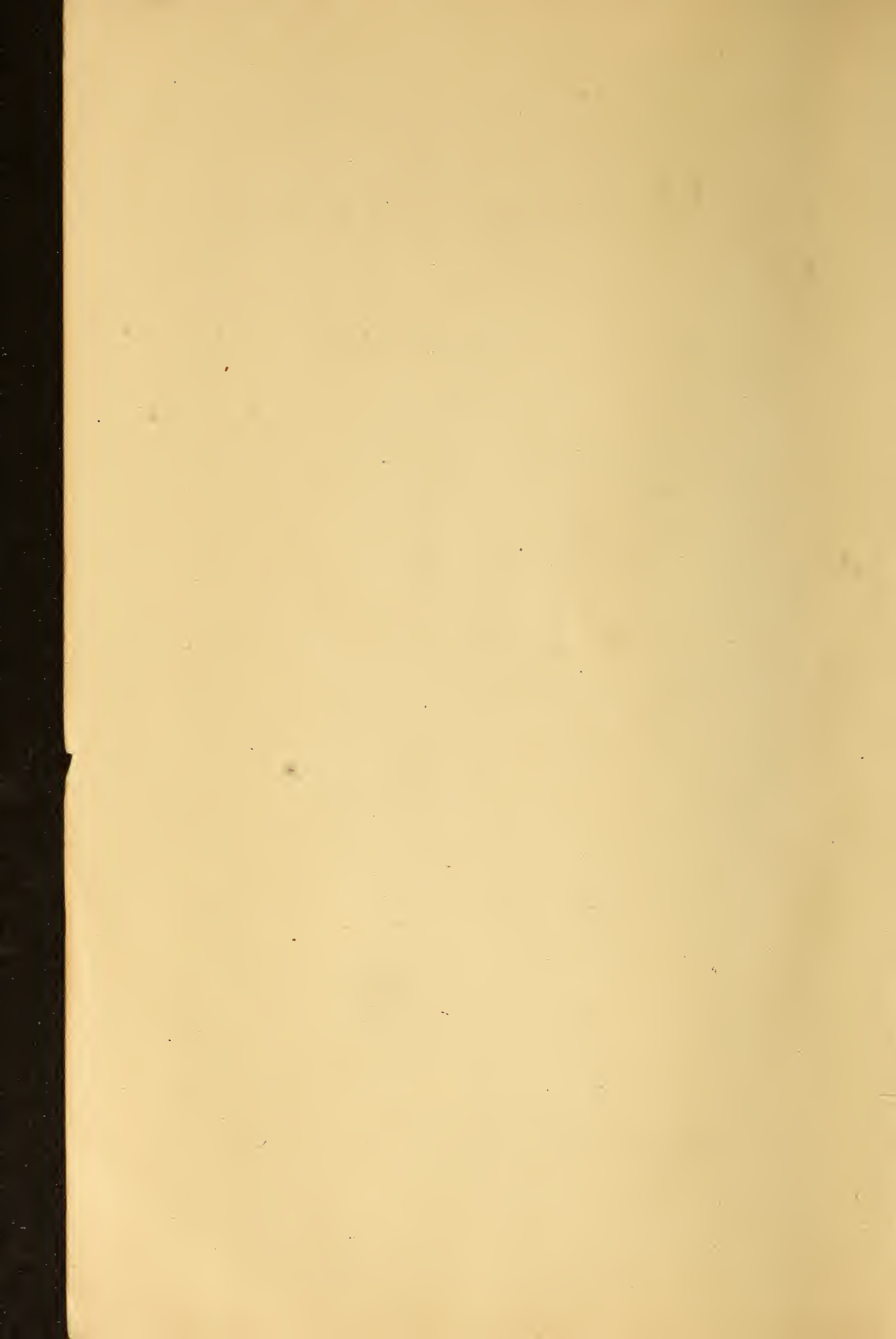
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THE HELPING HAND:

A Manual of Instruction

FOR THE

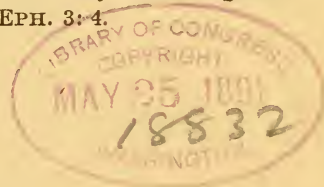
Y. P. S. C. E.

BY W. W. DOWLING,

AUTHOR OF

"The Bible Hand-Book," "The Guide Book," "The Christian Psalter," Etc.
Editor of "Our Young Folks."

"Whereby, when ye Read ye may Understand my Knowledge in the
Mystery of Christ."—EPH. 3: 4.



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PREFATORY.

THE HELPING HAND is most cordially extended to all who may in anywise need its aid, in their earnest endeavors to do the work of the Master whereunto they have been called. With its index-finger it has aimed to point out some of the tasks that are waiting to be performed in the special field in which Our Young People are called to labor; and with the strength which experience and exercise have developed, to help them to remove the difficulties in the way of their progress, to assist them over hard places, and to guide them into the open doors of usefulness that are everywhere placed before them.

May the blessings of our Divine Leader attend THE HELPING HAND, and make it helpful in hastening the blessed time when every Congregation of Believers shall have, yea, shall itself be, a Society of Christian Endeavor, with every member active, true to the Pledge, and faithful to the Motto!

When this shall have come to pass, that brighter day spoken of by the prophet, will soon dawn, "when they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know him, from the least of them unto the greatest."

W. W. D.

ST. LOUIS, MO., 1891.

“Pro Christo et Ecclesia.”

FOR Christ, the Anointed, who for us
Himself did freely give,
And *for* the Church he purchased thus,
We covenant to live.

To Christ who made the sacrifice,
So infinitely great,
And to the Church he loved, likewise,
Ourselves we dedicate.

THE HELPING HAND.

I.

THE Y. P. S. C. E. MOVEMENT.

I. THE NAME.

"In the name of our God we will set up our Banners."—*Psa. 20: 5.*

The talismanic letters, "Y. P. S. C. E.," stand for "The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor," the name applied to the most powerful and successful movement of the century for reaching the young, and enlisting them in Christian work.

1. **The Young People.**—As the name imports, it is a movement chiefly for, by, and among, the *young people*, though people of all ages are found in its membership, while all classes have been benefited by its influences, either direct or reflex.

2. **A Society.**—The movement is not an individual effort, or a mob, but a well organized *Society*, with clearly defined and well-understood objects, plans of procedure and methods of work.

3. **Christian.**—As the name further implies, the Society is distinctly *Christian*—devoted to Christ and his teachings, with each individual member pledged to daily read his Word to know his will, and to try to please him in all things. Furthermore, the Society is not *sectarian* in spirit, but *catholic*; and not *denominational*, further than that each individual local Society is pledged to be loyal to the particular local church, or congregation, with which it is connected, and under the general direction and supervision of whose officary it operates.

4. **Endeavor.**—This Young People's Christian Society is emphatically one of *Endeavor*: "of labor directed to some specific

end." It is not a Society for pleasure or amusement, or for literary or social culture, though it has all these features; but it is for earnest, consecrated, self-sacrificing work in the service of the Master.

Our Watchword.

"Christian Endeavor!" This our watchword shall be,
"Christian Endeavor!" Till from service set free;
Armed with the strength of youth and purpose true,
Always and everywhere, Christ's work to do.

II. THE NATURE.

"We are laborers together with God."—*1 Cor. 3:9.*

It is most important to have in the beginning very clear ideas as to what the Y. P. S. C. E. *is*, and its relation to other agencies for doing the Lord's work.

1. Negatively.—It is not an organization independent of, and separate and apart from, the Church, as some seem to think and others to fear.

2. Affirmatively.—It is, in the language of Dr. Clark, its founder, "The Church itself at work for the young, and the young at work for, in and with, the Church." The motto of the Society is, "For Christ and the Church," and each Society is connected with some individual local church, and its efforts are to be directed to her upbuilding.

3. Good Results.—In every church and community where a Society has been organized and properly conducted, good results have followed. Among the many worthy objects that it accomplishes may be cited the following:

1. It gives young Christians something to do in the Lord's work at once.

2. It accustoms them to the sound of their own voices in the prayer-meeting.

3. It causes them to understand that they each have a part to perform in the activities of the Church, as well as the oldest Christian.

4. It fills up the Sunday-school, by sending these young Christian soldiers out as recruiting officers among those who otherwise might not be reached.

5. It helps along in that most desirable work of keeping the young folks in the Sunday-school, by giving them something to do, and assists them to do it successfully.

6. It makes the younger members of the Church prompt and faithful in their attendance upon public worship, prepares them for a part in the general prayer-meeting service, and helps to make them the pastor's most efficient and trusted helpers.

Work for Jesus.

What a work to do for Jesus!
 Work for heart and hand and brain:
 Sowing, aye, beside all waters,
 Precious seeds of golden grain!

III. THE OBJECT.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ."—*Eph. 4: 12.*

The great object, mission, or work of the Y. P. S. C. E. is,

1. To Evangelize.—Its purpose is to reach the young, especially those who are not Christians, and interest them in the reading of the Bible and the preaching of the Gospel, and finally to bring them to Christ and into the Church.

2. To Build Up.—It seeks by a systematic study of the Scriptures, in the Sunday-school, by Daily Readings on the special Society Prayer-Meeting Topics, by the circulation of good literature among the young, and by encouraging them to a faithful attendance on, and participation in, all the regular meetings of the Church, to fully establish them in the truth, and to promote their growth in grace and in knowledge.

3. To Set to Work.—Its aim is to make the young people not only loyal and intelligent Disciples of Christ, but also imitators of Andrew, who, after he had himself found the Saviour, immediately went out and found his brother, Simon, and "brought him to Jesus" also; to engage them in active Christian work, in bringing pupils into the Sunday-school; by inviting strangers to the Lord's house; by distributing tracts and other good literature; by visiting the sick, and going on other errands of mercy; and in brief, doing all they can to make the world wiser, happier

and better, and hastening the day "when all shall know the Lord from the least unto the greatest."

Redeeming Work.

Delightful work, young souls to win,
And turn the rising race,
From the deceitful ways of sin,
To seek redeeming grace.

IV. THE HISTORY.

"First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."—*Mark 4: 28.*

It is important that all Christian Endeavorers should be familiar with the facts pertaining to the rise and progress of the great movement that is engaging the best energies of many of the Lord's most noble and earnest servants, and doing so much for Christ and the Church.

1. The Rise.—This particular organized form of Church activity is yet comparatively in its infancy, and began within the memory of almost its youngest member.

(1) *The First Society.*—The first Y. P. S. C. E. was organized Feb. 2, 1881, in Portland, Maine, at the house of Dr. Francis E. Clark, the Pastor of the Williston Church, at his suggestion, and under his direction and supervision. The constitution there and then adopted was essentially the same as that under which nearly all Societies of Christian Endeavor since formed have operated.

(2) *The First Member.*—The first person to sign the constitution was Mr. W. H. Pennell, a teacher in the Williston Sunday-school, who had at the time under his instruction a large class of young men. Nearly all the young people of the church to which Dr. Clark ministered became members, and the first Society was a success from the beginning.

(3) *The First Report.*—The first report of this experiment given to the public was contained in an article written by the founder, and published in *The Congregationalist*, of Boston, in August, 1881, entitled, "How One Church Cares for Its Young People."

2. The Growth.—The article referred to, and others which followed from the same source, brought to their author letters

from pastors and Christian workers in all parts of the country. In the language of Dr. Clark: "First they came singly, then in pairs, and then in scores, keeping on daily, in constantly increasing numbers. Wherever one winged seed of information was wafted, it usually struck and took root, and a little Christian Endeavor plant was the result."

(1) *The First Convention.*—One of the first developments of the new movement was in the line of Annual Conventions. Those interested met to consult as to the best method of carrying on the work. The first of these conferences was held June 2, 1882, in the Williston Church, Portland, Me. At that time but six Societies were known to be in existence, five of which were represented by delegates at the Convention.

(2) *The Second Convention.*—The next annual conference was held in another church in the same city, June 7, 1883, at which fifty-three societies were reported, many of which were represented by delegates.

(3) *The Convention at Lowell.*—The next convention was held in Lowell, Mass., October 22 and 23, 1884. One hundred and fifty delegates were in attendance, and the number of societies at the time had grown to one hundred and fifty-one.

(4) *The Ocean Park Convention.*—The next Convention was held at Ocean Park, near Old Orchard Beach, Me., July 9th and 10th, 1885. The number of local societies had then grown to two hundred and fifty-three, some of which were in foreign lands. At this Convention the "United Society" was founded, and a general secretary and other officers elected, and regular headquarters established at Boston.

(5) *The Saratoga Convention.*—In the summer of 1887 the National Convention met at Saratoga, N. Y., at which Dr. Francis E. Clark was elected President of the United Society, and Editor of the Endeavor literature, which position he has up to the present time (1891) most ably filled.

(6) *Other Conventions.*—Other General Conventions have followed annually, each surpassing the former in point of attendance, enthusiasm and helpfulness, until these Conventions have become the largest assemblies of devoted Christian workers the world has ever seen.

3. The Outlook.—Thus the great work moves grandly on; the roll of Societies is rapidly lengthening, and now the number of members is well up in the hundreds of thousands. They are found among all Protestant religious bodies in our own country, while the vigorous plant is rapidly taking root on foreign shores. The host of Young Endeavorers, so to speak, form a well-disciplined army of Christian soldiers, keeping step, and marching forward under their glorious banner on which is inscribed, "*Pro Christo et Ecclesia*," to assist in the conquest of the world.

The Endeavor Army.

We see their spreading watchfires glow throughout the land;
The flame upon their altars with heavenly breezes fanned,
And with Gospel banner waving, a consecrated band,
They still go marching on.

II.

THE Y. P. S. C. E. ORGANISM.

I. THE ORGANIZATION.

"That thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting."—*Titus 1:5*.

There ought to be a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor in every Church in which there are any considerable numbers of young people. In this work the pastor and other church-officials should take the lead. Without their hearty approval and cōoperation the work will not be successful.

1. The Way to Begin.—Call a meeting of the younger members of the Church, and pray and talk over the matter. Give the origin and history of the movement, as contained in the foregoing pages of this book; the good it has accomplished in other places, and point out the need of such a work of grace in your own community as a good Y. P. S. C. E. is capable of doing. Explain the Essential Features of the Organization, as hereafter given, and the pledge that is required of members, to be found further on in this Manual. Record the names of all who are will-

ing to become members, and your first steps, and in some measure the most important ones, have been taken. Dr. Clark's admonition is, "not to be too anxious for numbers; to think more of the *quality* than of the *quantity*, as half-a-score of those who are earnest and consecrated are worth more in this work than ten-score of half-hearted ones."

2. The Government.—The Y. P. S. C. E. is an orderly body, working after carefully prepared plans; and to preserve uniformity it is important that all Societies have essentially the same form of government. Therefore the United Society has prepared what is known as "The Model Constitution and By-Laws," and earnestly recommends all local Societies to adopt them, so far as it is consistent with their local circumstances and surroundings. They will be found in full in another department of this work.

(1) *The Constitution.*—The Constitution defines the objects of the Society; the classes and conditions of membership; the lists of officers and regular committees, with their duties, and prescribes rules for the conduct of the prayer and business meetings.

(2) *The By-Laws.*—The By-Laws regulate the times and places of meetings; the manner of electing officers and admitting new members; provide for various special committees, and prescribe their duties, and arrange various other things needful for the success of the local organization.

Orderly Work.

God's gracious work demands
Our constant thought and care;
The skillful labor of our hands,
And our united prayer.

II. THE MEMBERSHIP.

"He gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work."—*Mark 13:34.*

The better to carry out the grand object of the Society and make its influence for good as extensive as possible, different classes of members are recognized and provided for.

1. Active Members.—The Active Membership is composed of active young Christians who have boldly pledged themselves, either directly or indirectly, to the performance of the following duties:

1. To try in all things and at all times to please their Great Leader, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. To pray and to read the Bible every day, that they may know the will of the Heavenly Father.

3. To support to the best of their ability the particular Church with which their Society is connected, and do what they can to promote its prosperity.

4. To attend regularly both the Sunday and the mid-week services of the Church, and do what they can to influence others to attend.

5. To attend regularly and promptly the prayer-meetings of the Society, and to take some active part, aside from singing, in every meeting.

6. To absent themselves from no regular meeting of the Church or of the Society without some reason they can conscientiously give to the Saviour for their absence.

7. To be, like the Heavenly Father, "no respecter of persons;" but treat the rich and the poor, the high and the low, just alike.

8. To be, like the Master, the Lord Jesus, always on the lookout for an opportunity to help some one who needs help; and, like him, to be continually "going about doing good."

9. Finally, and to sum it all up in few words, to *earnestly endeavor* to be *Christians*, Disciples of Christ, in deed and in truth.

2. Associate Members.—The Associate Members are young people who, while not prepared to avow themselves active Christians, are willing to put themselves under Christian influence. They pledge themselves to attend the weekly prayer-meetings and do what they can to advance the interests of the Society, but are not required to take any active part in the service. Every good influence should be kept around such members, and every effort made to bring them to Christ.

3. Affiliated Members.—There are two classes of Affiliated or Honorary Members recognized in the Constitution:

1. Christians of any age, who may feel an interest in the objects of the Society, but who cannot assume the duties of active membership.

2. The pastor of the Church, and other official members,

together with the Superintendent of the Sunday-school and his assistants.

4. Junior Members.—The Junior Membership are the boys and girls who are anxious “to be about their Father’s business,” but who are not quite ready to take their places among the regular Active Members. They pledge themselves to read the Bible and pray daily; to attend the meetings of the Society regularly, and to try to do right in all things. They are usually organized as a separate Society, with their own officers; but the better way is to consider them members of the one regular Society, and arrange for separate meetings, under the direction of some one of the older members.

Work for All.

To the work, to the work! we are servants of God;
 Let us follow the path that the Master has trod;
 With the balm of his counsel our strength to renew,
 Let us do with our might what our hands find to do.

III. THE OFFICIARY.

“Taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint but willingly.”—*1 Pet. 5:2.*

As in all similar organizations, but perhaps more so in the Y. P. S. C. E. than in most others, much depends on the character and efficiency of those chosen to official positions. The officers are all to be taken from the list of Active Members, and should be selected with special reference to their fitness, and not merely to honor this or that worthy person. The officials provided for in the Constitution are as follows:

1. The President.—Either a lady or a gentleman may be elected to this position. It is the most important office in the Society, the duties of which are manifold. The more important ones may be summarized as follows:

1. To preside at all regular and special meetings of the Society, and of the Executive Committee.

2. To represent the Society in the official meetings of the Church, and in Local Unions.

3. To confer with and advise the Chairmen of the various committees in reference to their work.

4. To watch over all the interests of the Society, and to pray earnestly and work faithfully for its spiritual good and upbuilding.

2. The Vice-President.—This is an important office, likewise. The incumbent is not only to discharge all the duties of the President, in the absence or inability of that officer, but should, also, assist him in the general work of supervising the affairs and operations of the Society, taking such particular parts as may be agreed upon between the two.

3. The Corresponding Secretary.—This officer is to conduct the general correspondence of the Society, acting as the medium of communication between it and other similar organizations and between it and Local Unions, State Unions and the United Society.

4. The Recording Secretary.—This officer should be neat and exact in business habits, having for a motto, "Let all things be done decently, and in order." The specific duties are to keep a record of the members; correspond with absent members, and inform them of their standing; keep the minutes of all business meetings, and notify all persons elected to office.

5. The Treasurer.—Although the Y. P. S. C. E. gives no very special attention to financial concerns, yet, in common with all organizations, it must have funds to meet its current expenses, and carry on its missionary work, and it must have these funds properly cared for. It is the Treasurer's duty to receive and safely keep all funds belonging to the Society, and pay out the same only as directed in the Constitution.

6. The Librarian.—Every Society, as soon as possible, should begin the formation of a library of such books and periodicals as will help them in their study of the Bible; promote their growth in grace and knowledge, and instruct them in their special work. A Librarian is therefore necessary, whose duty it is to care for the books already in the Society's possession, give out the same as may be provided in the By-Laws, and try to devise ways and means for adding new books from time to time.

7. The Junior Officers.—The Junior membership, whether a separate Society or a Band or Class of the one Society, should be under the care of a Superintendent and an Assistant, appointed by the Pastor or the Executive Board, or elected as other officers;

and a Secretary and Treasurer, nominated by the Superintendent, and elected by their own membership, with such duties as are usually discharged by such officers in other Societies.

The Chief Servants.

How great their work! How vast the charge!
Do thou, O Lord, their souls enlarge!
Their best endowments are our gain;
We share the blessings they obtain.

IV. THE COMMITTEES.

"They watch for your souls, as they that must give account."—*Heb. 3:17.*

In the Y. P. S. C. E. much depends upon the Committees. They may be considered under two classes: the Regular and the Special.

I. THE REGULAR.—The Regular Committees are those provided for in the Constitution, and without which no Society can well exist. They are the Lookout, the Prayer-Meeting, the Social and the Executive. Each of these, except the last, is usually composed of five members, one of whom is elected Chairman, and another Secretary, to keep the minutes of the Committee's proceedings.

1. **The Lookout Committee.**—No Committee is more important than this, as the success or failure of the Society may largely depend upon the manner in which its members discharge their duties. Chief among these duties are the following:

1. To invite strangers to attend the Prayer-Meetings of the Society, and regular services of the Church.

2. To be continually on the lookout for persons who ought to become members of the Society.

3. To satisfy themselves of the fitness of candidates, and propose the names of suitable persons.

4. To introduce new members to the work of the Society, to each other, and to other members.

5. To affectionately look after and endeavor to reclaim any that may seem to be indifferent to their duties.

6. To assist the weak, encourage the timid, and do all in their power to build up the Society in numbers, and increase its piety and devotion.

The Lookout Committee has been styled by different writers, "The Eyes of the Society," "The Outside Conscience," "The Monitor," "The Pastor's Cabinet," etc. Rev. W. H. G. Temple, speaking of the Model Lookout Committee, calls it by various names:

(1) *A Look-out Committee*, casting its eyes over the field, in quest of new members, and of important work to do.

(2) *A Look-up Committee*, following every advantage, making personal appeals, and extending invitations to the Society and to the Church.

(3) *A Look-in Committee*, noting who are present and who absent, and laying out new work.

(4) *A Look-after Committee*, hunting up delinquents, and going after them like a sunbeam, and not like a thunder-cloud.

(5) *A Look-into Committee*, advising, encouraging and restoring.

(6) *A Look-around Committee*, greeting strangers who have come to the meeting, and inviting them to come again; answering inquiries about the Society, and answering the objections of croakers.

(7) *A Look-over Committee*, whose eyes are wide open, early and late, and all the time, to see some new work to do for the Master.

2. The Prayer-Meeting Committee.—This committee has in charge the Prayer-Meeting, and to it is committed the duty of assigning topics for special meetings, and supplying Topic Cards for the regular service, appointing a leader for each meeting, and doing all in its power to secure faithfulness to the Prayer-Meeting Pledge.

Rev. Edward A. Robinson offers the following suggestions to the Prayer-Meeting Committee, which are worthy of careful attention:

1. Let every member feel a responsibility for every meeting.
2. Be punctual in your attendance, and sit as far forward as possible.
3. Take a part early in the meeting; the earlier the better.
4. Speak so that all may hear, and as if you meant just what you say.

5. Help the leader or speaker; and if a young Christian has helped you, tell him or her about it.

6. Be on the watch for helpful suggestions, and try to secure their adoption.

7. Think of the meetings; talk of them; pray for them; work for them, and look to God for his blessings upon your efforts.

3. The Social Committee.—To this committee is committed the duty of promoting the social interests of the Society. Some of its more important duties may be thus tabulated:

1. To greet strangers at any and all of the meetings, with a cordial hand-shake and a word of welcome.

2. To provide for the mutual acquaintance of members, by occasional Socials.

3. To arrange for concerts, lectures, literary exercises, or any other kind of entertainments practicable and advisable, of which the Church approves.

The following timely suggestions have been offered by Mr. Frank A. Arnold to the members of this Committee:

1. Be sure that the members of your Society are mutually acquainted.

2. Do not neglect the stranger or the new member, but let him or her have your first attention.

3. Be prepared to sacrifice self, if need be, and make the happiness of others your pleasure.

4. Keep ever fresh in your mind, as a guide to your actions, the thought that it is the Master's work in which you are engaged, and He who can look into the heart and see the motives which govern actions will not leave un-rewarded, even the cup of cold water, if it be given in his name.

4. The Executive Committee.—This Committee consists of the Pastor of the Church, the Officers of the Society, and the Chairmen of the various Committees. It is the Council before which all important business matters should first come—all financial schemes, and all questions requiring, or likely to elicit, discussion, and its decisions are to be reported to the society. The decisions, under the Constitution, as interpreted by its author, are not final, but the prudent Society will not often adopt any measure the Committee does not approve.

5. The Junior Committees.—There should also be a Lookout Committee, and such other Committees as may be needed among the Junior members, with duties similar to those resting upon similar Committees in the main Society. These Committees should be appointed by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Junior membership.

II. THE SPECIAL.—The Special Committees are those authorized and provided for in the By-Laws, which, while very useful, are not essential to the existence of a regular Y. P. S. C. E. Each Society may have such of them as its size, particular work and surroundings may require. Those named in the Model By-Laws are the Sunday-School, the Calling, the Music, the Missionary, the Flower, the Temperance, the Relief, and the Good Literature. Like the Regular Committees, each should consist of five members, one of whom should be designated as Chairman, and another as Secretary.

1. The Sunday-School Committee.—This Committee has a very good field in which to operate, and may be instrumental in doing much good. The most obvious ways in which its members can be made useful are,

1. By hunting up and bringing into the Sunday-school, children that are not in attendance.

2. By trying to interest the grown up girls and boys, who are under no special religious influence, in the Sunday-school.

3. By doing their best to make recruiting officers of pupils who are already in the school, to assist in bringing in others.

4. By offering their services to the Superintendent, in any capacity in which he may think them useful.

5. By always being found at the Sunday-school themselves, wide-awake and ready to do anything in their power to advance its interest.

2. The Calling Committee.—This Committee will find plenty to do, especially in a Church located in a growing community, or where the population is changing. The work of its members is,

1. To call upon strangers in the community, make their acquaintance, and invite them to attend the meetings of the Society.

2. To visit young members of the School, Society and Church,

who may seem timid, and do what they can to make them "feel at home" among God's people.

3. To visit the sick and afflicted, at proper times, and show a friendly interest in them; and, in brief, to be "the feet of the Society," ready to run here and there on errands of mercy and love.

3. The Music Committee.—There is much good work that may be done by this Committee to add to the interest of the meetings, and influence of the Society. To specify, it is their duty,

1. To see that the Society is supplied with suitable song-books, and musical instruments, if the Church sanctions their use.

2. To see that a chorister is present at each meeting to lead the singing, and an organist or pianist, if an instrument is used.

3. To assist the leader of the prayer-meeting, if assistance be needed, in the selection of suitable songs.

4. To take steps to cultivate the musical talent of the Society, that as many as possible may "sing with the spirit, and the understanding," also.

5. To provide suitable music for any special meetings, and to coöperate with the Social Committee, when musical entertainments are to be given.

4. The Missionary Committee.—The duties of this Committee are numerous and important:

1. To earnestly endeavor to interest the Society in mission work, both home and foreign.

2. To provide suitable exercises for missionary meetings, to be held at such times as the Society may select.

3. To coöperate with other Committees in visiting the sick, the poor, the neglected, and do all in their power to relieve distress, and teach the principles of the Gospel of Christ.

5. The Flower Committee.—This Committee can make itself useful in various ways:

1. In providing flowers for the pulpit on the Lord's day, and for the desk of the leader of the Society at prayer-meeting.

2. By assisting in the decoration of the Church on public festive occasions, such as Christmas, Easter, Children's Day, and Thanksgiving.

3. By systematically collecting flowers and distributing them in hospitals, and among the sick and afflicted in their own homes.

6. The Temperance Committee.—The temperance work among the young is most important, and, hence, there is always need of a Temperance Committee, or some other persons specially charged with its duties. Some of the most apparent of these duties are,

1. To provide for the holding of temperance meetings by the Society, at such times as may be thought expedient.

2. To provide suitable exercises for these meetings, and secure proper persons to take charge of the same.

3. To secure as many signers to the pledge of total abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquors as possible; especially among the children and young people.

7. The Relief Committee.—The work of this committee depends much upon local needs and circumstances. Its mission is to do practical mission work by,

1. Relieving the wants of the distressed, and helping to care for the sick.

2. Endeavoring to find homes for orphan children, and situations for those willing and able to work, who are out of employment.

The duties of this Committee are much like those of the Calling and Missionary Committees, and except in large Societies the duties may usually be divided among them. It is only important that their Christ-like work be done by some one, and done heartily and thoroughly.

8. The Good Literature Committee.—Though mentioned last, this is really one of the most important of all the Special Committees, and few if any can do more to advance the interests of the Society, and give it a permanent place among the working forces of the Church. Among other things this committee is,

1. To promote the circulation of good papers and magazines among the members of the Society, particularly of the magazine or other periodical which the Church approves, especially devoted to the welfare and work of the young people.

2. To endeavor to devise ways and means for supplying visitors and friends of the Society, who are not members, with such literature as will acquaint them with its aims and purposes.

3. To assist the Librarian in devising ways of procuring suitable books for the library, and encouraging their reading by members of the Society.

4. To assist the Temperance, Missionary and other Committees, in the distribution of tracts and other documents, as may be selected and approved by the proper authorities.

The Work of Chairmen.

The efficiency of the various Committees depends largely upon their respective Chairmen; therefore, care should always be taken to put the most competent members into these positions. The following rules have been prepared for their guidance by a successful worker:

1. Keep in mind the Y. P. S. C. E. motto—"For Christ and the Church."

2. Learn definitely what your work is, as defined in the Constitution.

3. Learn definitely what work there is to do. "Knowledge is power."

4. Assign some definite and particular work to each member of your Committee.

5. Make sure that members of your Committee know exactly what their special work is.

6. Have Committee meetings. The members of the Committees need to talk the work over.

7. Begin every Committee meeting with prayer. Take God into all your counsels, and ask for his guidance.

8. Pray over your work. We are seeking to do work for God; it is worth while to talk with him about the work.

9. Plan your work. There is system in politics, system in railroads, system in business, but the Christian Church heretofore has expected results without that system, which everywhere else is esteemed essential. If farmers raised wheat as we work for Christ, we should all starve.

10. Always make out a monthly report. The object of the report is to show that the Committee have done what they could; that they have not been idle. Such a report is always a stimulus to those who hear it and to the Committee who make it. If they

have done very little, let them report that little. If they have done absolutely nothing, let them report that with contrition and resolve to do better; but on no account let the written report, which is to be filed by the Secretary and kept, be omitted.

Examples.

Be earnest; salvation's the prize;
Be patient, the cross you must bear;
Be holy, be gentle, be wise;
Be constant, be faithful in prayer.

III.

THE Y. P. S. C. E. MEETINGS.

I. THE PRAYER--MEETING.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”—*Heb. 10:24.*

The Prayer-Meeting is by far the most important of all the meetings of the Y. P. S. C. E. Without it no Society could long exist, as it is from it and in it that spiritual strength and inspiration are principally to be gained for the outside practical duties.

1. The Pledge.—One of the essential characteristics of the Society is the pledge on the part of every Active Member to be present at every meeting, unless for some reason that can conscientiously be given to the Saviour for absence, and to take some part (or be ready to do so if opportunity offers), aside from singing, in every meeting. This is a wise provision, as it assures a good attendance; provides exercises in variety and abundance; gives all something to do; keeps them in sympathy with the movement, and makes them partakers of the spiritual benefits.

2. The Order of Service.—There should be as much variety in the service as possible, and where the exercises are to be voluntary, no definite order can be followed. The following general suggestions may be useful:

1. A soul-stirring song suitable for the occasion.
2. A brief prayer by the leader, the president or pastor.

3. A short responsive Bible Reading of an appropriate selection from *The Christian Psalter*.

4. A song in harmony with the Topic for the evening.

5. A very few preliminary remarks by the leader, in which the Topic should be stated, and the Scripture passages upon which it is based, read, if not too long.

6. Short talks, recitations, readings and prayers from the Active Members, interspersed with singing.

7. If time permit, a few remarks by the pastor, or any visitor whom the leader is sure possesses the grace and wisdom to say the right thing.

8. Concluding song and prayer, or benediction.

3. The Topics.—It will usually be found best to adopt and follow the Uniform Topics arranged by the United Society. Most of the periodicals giving any attention to the Endeavor work print these Topics with suggestive comments and helpful hints.

4. The Leader.—The leader for each meeting is selected by the Prayer-Meeting Committee, often a long time before the evening on which he or she is to lead. Many of the best Societies have printed Topic-Cards, which are freely distributed, announcing the leader for three or six months in advance. This plan is a good one, as it gives the leader ample time to prepare, and creates a special interest among particular personal friends. Much has been said and written on the duties of leaders, and the Endeavor papers and magazines are full of suggestions which all should read and ponder as they have opportunity. A few points only can be noted here:

(1) *Negatively.*—1. Do not read too long a passage of Scripture, or too many passages.

2. Do not take up too much time in your introduction, remembering that you are only one among many who are to take part.

3. Do not lose control of the meeting, or let it run itself, but have something ready for every emergency.

4. Do not let the meeting drag tiresomely along after the time for closing.

(2) *Positively.*—1. Be prompt both in beginning and closing the services.

2. Announce the Topic of the evening in your opening remarks.

3. As far as possible select hymns that bear on the subject of the meeting, and those with tunes simple and easy to sing.

4. Stand rather than sit while reading the Scriptures.

5. Try to add a few words of your own to the Scripture reading, but be very brief in all your remarks.

6. Pray for the meeting before you come, and after it is over, asking the Lord to bless it to his own glory and the good of all present.

5. The Chorister.—Societies that can have the regular services of a competent leader of the singing are to be congratulated. It is the duty of the Music Committee to secure such a leader, if possible; but if not, to see to it that some one competent to lead is present at every meeting. A few suggestions to the Chorister may not be amiss:

1. Confer with the leader about the songs, but defer to his or her judgment in case of any disagreement.

2. When other members start hymns of their own selection, join heartily in the singing.

3. If invited by the leader or Music Committee occasionally to sing a solo, do so, if you have a talent in that line, but do not attempt to "show off."

6. The Organist.—If an instrument is to be used of course there must be an organist or pianist. The necessary qualification for this office is the ability to perform plain music, at least, at sight. The occupant of this position must guard against the temptation to make exhibitions of skill in lengthy preludes, fantastic interludes and questionable variations.

7. The Music.—The singing is, or can readily be made, one of the most pleasing and profitable parts of the Prayer-Meeting service, having in it both the elements of worship and instruction. Sentiments sung make a deeper impression upon the mind and heart than when read or spoken, and many a wanderer has been brought back to duty, and many a sinner been led to Christ, by some stirring Gospel song, who has withstood the most eloquent appeals from the pulpit.

8. The Membership.—Much depends upon the Committee, the Leader, the Chorister and other Officials, but if the Prayer-Meeting is a conspicuous success, the whole Membership must

work together to make it so. The following, on "Ways, Means and Sources," principally from Rev. A. D. Smith, are worthy of consideration:

(1) *Ways of Taking Part.*—1. Repeat an appropriate passage of Scripture.

2. Repeat or read an appropriate selection from other literature.

3. Ask a question, either oral or written, on some practical question.

4. Say a word from your own thinking, or out of your own experience.

5. Offer a short prayer, with some definite object in view.

(2) *Sources of Preparation.*—1. Your own private Christian experience.

2. Your encouragements and discouragements in Christian work.

3. Your conversation with fellow Christians.

4. The minister's sermon, the Sunday-school lesson, and previous remarks by other members.

5. The study of the Topic by aid of your Endeavor magazine, and other publications.

6. Your general reading of the Bible, and other literature.

7. Your knowledge of the work in other parts of the field.

The Hour of Prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls us from a world of care,
And bids us at our Father's throne,
Make all our wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
Our souls have often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

II. THE CONSECRATION MEETING.

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."—*Rom. 12:1.*

The Constitution requires that once a month a Consecration Service shall be held in every Society, which all Active Members are required to attend.

1. Time of the Meeting.—This service may be held in connection with the regular weekly Prayer-Meeting, or it may be at a different hour, or day. In most Societies the former is the custom, and the time selected is the last Sunday evening in each month. While this meeting has services and work peculiar to itself, the prayer and songs and talks may all, in some measure, be in harmony with the evening Topic.

2. The Leader.—As this a most important service, a leader of experience should be in charge. A very good plan is for the pastor, or some other leading official of the Church, the President of the Society and the Chairmen of the Prayer-Meeting and Lookout Committees, to occupy this position in rotation.

3. The Roll-Call.—After the usual opening services, and introductory remarks by the leader, the roll of Active Members is to be called by the Secretary, or Leader, or other person familiar with them. As each member's name is called he or she is expected to speak of his or her progress in the Christian life, or renew the vow of consecration. In place of original remarks, a verse of Scripture or poetry may often be appropriately substituted.

4. Associate Members.—It will be well to call the roll of Associate Members, also, that they may be made to feel that their relation to the Society is not forgotten, and that the Active Members may always know who are so enrolled. When their names are called they can indicate their presence by merely answering, "Present."

4. The Absentees.—Members of either class who foresee a necessary absence on their part, should notify the Secretary in advance, and when the names of such are called the cause of the absence should be stated, and if any communication has been received, it should be read. It is the duty of the Lookout Committee to carefully note the absentees and visit, at their very earliest convenience, those who are absent without excuse, and endeavor to impress upon their minds the great importance of faithfulness.

Consecration Vow.

Lord Jesus, look down from thy throne in the skies,
And help me to make a complete sacrifice;
I give up myself and whatever I know:
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

III. SPECIAL SERVICES.

"That I might by all means save some."—1 Cor. 9:22.

1. The Temperance Service.—At least once in three months a Temperance Service should be held in every Society. This may be in connection with the regular Prayer-Meeting for the week, or may be on a different night of the week. Whenever held the service should be under the general direction of the Temperance Committee, and all the exercises should tend to impress upon the minds of all the importance of total abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and of an earnest endeavor and united effort on the part of all Christians to put down the liquor-traffic.

2. The Missionary Service.—As often as once a quarter a Missionary Service should also be held, under the general direction of the Missionary Committee, either in connection with the weekly Prayer-Meeting, or some other convenient time. Especial care should be given to the preparation for this service, and its aim should be to impress the blessedness and importance of mission work, both in home-fields and in foreign lands; impart information concerning it, and urge the importance of being fellow-laborers with the missionaries, by praying for their success, contributing to their support, and personally engaging in the work with them as opportunity offers.

3. Bible Reading Service.—Occasionally it is well to let the Prayer-Meeting take the form of a Bible Reading. An experienced leader should be selected for such occasions, who should before hand carefully analyze the subject for the evening, and look up the passages of Scripture and assign them to different members to be read at the proper time. Let one or more follow such reading with a few pertinent remarks, and let all be liberally interspersed with brief prayers, and a verse or two of appropriate songs.

4. The Song-Service.—One of the most interesting, impressive and inspiring of all the forms of Special Service is the Song-Service, which should be in charge of the Music Committee, with perhaps the Chairman of the Committee as leader for the evening.

(1) *The Singing*.—The singing in this service, as indeed in all Endeavor meetings, should be spirited and earnest. Dragging, lifeless singing will minister to spiritual death, rather than to spiritual life.

(2) *The Songs*.—The songs should be carefully selected before hand, and should be in harmony with some central thought, or with the Topic of the week, if the service takes the place of the usual Prayer-Meeting service. There may with great propriety be solos, duetts and quartets, as well as choruses, but there should be a liberal allowance of familiar songs. A select quartet choir to assist the Chorister and sustain the parts is desirable in this service, as indeed in all the Endeavor devotional meetings, but all should be encouraged to sing. "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee" (Psa. 67:3).

5. Other Forms.—The Prayer-Meeting services may sometimes take still other special forms. A Society occupying a field by itself so far away from others as to be deprived of the benefit and fellowship of a Local Union, might occasionally have,

(1) *A Correspondence Service*.—To make this successful a number of Societies in other places must be induced to send reports of their work, with suggestions that may be useful, to be read at the meeting.

(2) *A Motto Service*.—In a service of this kind the great point in all the Bible Readings, recitations, talks, songs and prayers should be to emphasize the glorious motto of the Endeavor movement, "For Christ and the Church."

(3) *A Memoriter Service*.—In a service of this kind, no Bibles, song-books, papers or notes of any kind are brought out, but everything is repeated from memory.

(4) *A Psalm Service*.—In this service the Scripture selections are all taken from the Psalms. A Psalm may be read by the leader and the Society responsively; and others or portions of others, by the various Committees in concert. There may also be very brief papers or talks on the lessons of the particular Psalms read. Other portions of the Bible may be treated in the same way. The classifications of the gems of Scripture found in *The Christian Psalter* will afford great variety of suitable themes.

In all these special services the proceedings should be reverent. Remember that in them the aim should be to glorify God and advance the interests of his work upon earth.

A Prayer for Help.

Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious blessings thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

IV. JUNIOR MEETINGS.

“Even a child is known by his doings.”—*Prov. 20:11.*

The best time for the regular weekly meeting of the Junior Society or Band will usually be found to be Sunday afternoon. The exercises should embrace,

1. Devotions.—Reading of the Scriptures, prayers by and for members, recitations of Bible verses, songs, and little talks.

2. Instruction.—By the Superintendent, pastor and other wise and prudent persons, on and from the Word of God, and on various practical duties.

3. Business.—Reports of Committees, the admission of members, and other things requiring attention.

4. The Topic.—The regular Topic for the week in the Endeavor Prayer-Meeting may be used in the Junior meeting, and the songs, prayers, recitations, readings and talks, in a measure, be made to bear upon it.

5. The Leader.—Much depends upon the Leader or Superintendent, and he or she should always make special preparation for the important duties of the position. Mrs. Alice May Scudder gives the following valuable suggestions to leaders:

(1) *Be Alive.*—“With all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” This must be the spirit of every leader of children.

(2) *Be Rested.*—Don’t exhaust your nervous force any more than is absolutely necessary on the day of the meeting, for you will need a large reserve in readiness to draw upon.

(3) *Be Childlike.*—The simpler the language, and the more

suited to children the illustrations are, the better the meeting will be.

(3) *Be Hopeful.*—The work of Christianizing children is not done in a day, nor even in a week, nor sometimes for years. The sculptor chisels a bit at a time, and by-and-by a figure of matchless beauty stands out before him. If you feel discouraged glance back a year, and see the spiritual earnestness of those boys who once were so restless and so hard to interest. That dear timid little girl who fairly trembled from head to foot when reading a verse, leads the meeting now with little trouble to herself or to you.

The Children's Service.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their blessings on the Saviour's name.

V. BUSINESS MEETINGS.

"Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord,"—*Rom. 12:11.*

The business of the Y. P. S. C. E. should be conducted on strict business principles. The Lord himself works in an orderly, systematic way, and his work goes on most successfully when his servants follow his example. Business meetings may be considered under the following heads:

1. The Regular.—There ought to be a regular Business Meeting of the Society once a month, and at the close of the first regular Prayer-Meeting for the month is a good time for the meeting. At this meeting the following items will usually need attention:

1. The reading of the minutes of the last Business Meeting.
2. The President's Monthly Report.
3. Reports of the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries.
4. Reports of Standing Committees.
5. Reports of the Regular Committees.
6. Reports of Special Committees.
7. New Business of any kind.

8. Presentation of names, and election of new members.

2. The Election.—Under the Constitution, the election of officers and members of the various Committees is to take place semi-annually. The election may be held in connection with the Regular Business Meeting, or at a different time, as the Society may prefer. The former is the usual custom, but in large Societies where there is much business to attend to, the latter is the better course to pursue.

(1) *Manner of Electing.*—A good plan is for the President to appoint a Committee, at least one week in advance of the time of election, to nominate candidates for the various positions, who are to be elected by the vote of the Active Members. The vote may be either by ballot or *viva voce*.

(2) *Places of Trust.*—While membership on the Board of Officers or Committees should be distributed as evenly as the good of the Society will warrant, these positions should not be considered places of honor to be striven for, but simply places of trust, and opportunities for increased usefulness. When a member has been fairly elected, it is expected that he or she will consider the office a sacred trust, to be conscientiously accepted and never to be declined, except for most urgent and valid reasons.

3. The Special.—Special Meetings may be held at any time, on a call of the President, for the transaction of any business that cannot await the regular meeting, or that for any reason cannot well come before it.

4. The Executive.—The Executive Board, which, as before stated, consists of the Pastor of the Church, the Officers of the Society, and the Chairmen of the various Committees, will hold their meetings at such times as may be convenient and necessary. Their duties have already been defined. The object of this Committee, as explained by Dr. Clark, is to prevent waste of time, in the regular meetings of the Society, by useless debate and unnecessary parliamentary practice, which is always harmful to the spirit of the Prayer-Meeting.

4. The Committees.—The various Committees provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws, should hold meetings at such times as the interest of the work placed in their hands may demand, for which no special instructions are necessary, further

than that they should endeavor to conduct all their proceedings in a business-like way, and through their secretaries keep accurate minutes of their meetings, to be handed over to their successors in office.

Workmen and Soldiers.

Workmen and soldiers of the Lord,
Weapons and tools at once we bear;
We hold the trowel and the sword,
The foe repel, the wall repair;
Till Jesus in himself brings down
The laborer's hire, the victor's crown.

VI. SOCIAL MEETINGS.

"He that hath friends must show himself friendly."—*Prov. 18:24.*

The Constitution contemplates such gatherings as these occasionally, under the direction of the Social Committee. When properly arranged for and conducted they may be made very useful in helping on the good work for which the Y. P. S. C. E. is organized.

1. The Object.—The object of the Social is to form new acquaintances, to cultivate acquaintances already formed, and to minister to the social enjoyment of the young people. Particular care should be taken to invite the new members, both Active and Associate, and also the young people of the neighborhood generally, who may not be connected with the Society, with a view to interesting them in the work.

2. The Entertainment.—Wide awake young people will scarcely need any suggestions as to the manner of making the Social interesting and useful, but the following may be helpful to the inexperienced:

1. See that particular attention is paid to the diffident, to new members and to strangers.

2. Let there be no "sets," "clans," "castes," or "special favorites," but endeavor on such occasions to have all on a common social and Christian level.

3. Refreshments may be provided, if convenient, and also any harmless amusements which the particular church with which the Society is connected may approve.

4. Never for a moment forget that you are the Lord's servants, that all you say and do ought to be with an eye single to his glory, and that you should never engage in anything upon which you cannot ask his blessings.

Ever Faithful.

Be faithful and watchful in all that you do;
To Jesus, the Master, be loyal and true;
His honor and glory your care be ever;
To faithfully serve him, your constant endeavor.

VII. LITERARY AND MUSICAL.

"These things are good and profitable."—*Titus 3:8.*

Entertainments of this class may with great propriety be given and may be made helpful to the Society and to the community as educators, and at the same time pleasant means for replenishing the treasury, by charging a reasonable admission fee. Such entertainments may take a wide range. There may be,

1. Concert Services.—Such an entertainment can be given exclusively by the members of the Society, aided perhaps by some of the children of the Sunday-school for variety. The exercises should be made up of Scripture passages, recitations, short talks and appropriate songs, clustered about some great central truth.

2. Musical Concerts.—By the aid of the Church Choir, and other local talent, either amateur or professional, or both, an evening's entertainment of vocal and instrumental selections can often be arranged, that will be popular, pleasant and profitable.

3. Lectures.—A lecture-course, or at least an occasional lecture, can be arranged for in most Societies, if thought desirable. The lectures can be on Endeavor work, or any other form of Christian activity; or on social, scientific or popular subjects. The pastor, and other local ministers, lawyers, doctors and teachers, can often be had for these lectures; or where thought best and practicable, like talent from neighboring towns can be procured.

Helps in the Work.

The aid e'en such as these may bring
We may not well refuse,
But use them as the scaffolding
The busy builders use.

VIII. ANNIVERSARIES.

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."—1 Sam. 7:12.

Anniversaries are "mile-stones" along the pathway the Society has traveled, and may be made occasions for arousing a deeper interest in the work among outsiders, as well as means for arousing those already engaged to greater activity. The following are some of the occasions that may be thus utilized:

1. **Endeavor Day.**—This is the second day of February, the anniversary of the founding of the first distinct Society, at Portland, Maine, in 1881. Suitable exercises for this occasion would be brief addresses and papers reviewing the rise and progress of the Endeavor movement, with discussion of plans for enlarging the sphere of usefulness of the local Society, all mingled with prayers and songs of thanksgiving. The Societies of a town or district may sometimes advantageously unite in the observance, at some convenient centre. It is an opportune time, also, for each Society to make an offering for some distinctive mission work.

2. **Easter.**—It will not be amiss for each Society to make use of Easter as an occasion for impressing the great truths connected with the Resurrection of our Lord. This can usually be best done by joining with the Sunday-school in a Concert Service, or Cantata.

3. **Fourth of July.**—Our young people should be taught to be patriotic—to love their country, and to properly appreciate the blessings of liberty which they enjoy under her starry flag. Therefore, if practicable, a proper commemoration of the great National Anniversary will not be at all out of place. Appropriate exercises for such an occasion would be devotional and patriotic songs, short speeches, mingled with thanksgiving and prayer.

4. **Thanksgiving.**—The National Thanksgiving-day is another occasion suitable for anniversary services. As on Easter, the Society may profitably join with the Sunday-school in rendering a service based on passages from the Word of God, speaking of the Divine goodness in supplying the wants of his creatures both temporal and spiritual.

5. **Christmas.**—Christmas, the day almost universally observed as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, is a most fit-

ting time each year to recount the blessings his coming into the world brought to mankind. A Christmas Cantata, or Concert Service, by the aid of or in connection with the Sunday-school, is one of the most suitable forms of service.

A Stone of Help.

Thus far the Lord hath helped us on,
Thus far his power prolongs our days,
And every season shall make known
Some fresh memorial of his grace.

IV.

THE Y. P. S. C. E. FRATERNITY.

I. THE LOCAL SOCIETY.

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”—*Eph. 4:3*.

Every faithful Disciple of Christ, who is striving to know and do the will of the Master, is a true Christian Endeavorer, and where a band of such in any place unite to help each other, and by their combined effort, earnestly seek to assist in building up the Church, they constitute a Genuine Society of Christian Endeavor.

1. **The Government.**—To enable them to work in an orderly way, they adopt certain rules and regulations to govern their proceedings, known as the Constitution and By-Laws, and elect certain officers to lead their meetings and direct their operations, but all with the approval and under the general supervision of the officials of the particular church with which each Society is connected.

2. **Essential Features.**—The Essential Features of the Society are,

1. Pledged and constant attendance upon a Weekly Prayer-Meeting of its own.

2. Pledged and constant participation in the Services of this meeting by every Active Member.

3. Pledged and constant work for others, through the Committees for which it provides.

4. Pledged and constant participation in the regular work of the Church, in all its departments, as opportunity offers, and a faithful and regular attendance upon all its stated meetings for worship.

Our Duty.

To serve the present age,
Our calling to fulfill;
Oh, may it all our powers engage
To do the Master's will!

II. LOCAL UNIONS.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."—*Psa. 133:1.*

Local Unions are composed of three, six, or a dozen or more Local Societies, of the same city, town or district. They have been found very useful, and have stimulated the growth and increased the value of individual Societies.

1. The Object.—These Unions are for mutual helpfulness. The young people who unite to form them meet once in two or three months for a discussion of methods of work, or the fundamental principles of the Society, or for meetings of prayer and consecration. Such meetings have been found of special value in promoting the spirit of brotherhood and Christian fellowship.

2. The Government.—The organization of these Unions is very simple. A brief constitution defining the object, the conditions of membership, the officers and their duties, is all that is required to put them in working order.

3. The Meetings.—Experienced Endeavorers will not need any instructions as to the conduct of the meetings; but to those new to the work the following suggestions of Dr. Clark may not be amiss:

1. Have variety. Do not have two meetings in succession that are just alike.

2. Bring out new and improved methods of work. Let each

Society in the Union tell just how it has been able to do the best work.

3. Do not weary the audience with too many reports of Local Societies. Have the reports crisp, short and to the point.

4. Rely most upon home-talent, but occasionally have some speaker from outside the Union, who can arouse and inspire the members.

The Sacred Tie.

How blest the sacred tie that binds,
In sweet communion kindred minds!
How swift the heavenly course they run,
Whose hearts, whose faith, whose hopes are one!

III. STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

"We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."—*Psa. 54:14.*

State Associations are made up of such Local Societies, or Local Unions as may desire to enter into such fellowship.

1. **The Object.**—The object of these Associations is to stimulate an interest in the work of Local Societies, and Local Unions, and to bring the workers in various parts of the great field covered into closer relation and sympathy through conferences, reports and correspondence.

2. **Advantages.**—The advantages of such an organization are, (1) *In Suggestion*, by comparing methods of work, and discussing questions of practical importance. (2) *In Inspiration*. It is helpful to young Christians to know that they and their few associates in the Local Society, or Local Union, are not alone in the Lord's service; but that they are in the sweep and swing of a great movement.

3. **The Officer.**—The officers of the State Association are, a President, three Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary and Treasurer, with an Executive Board composed of the Presidents of the various Local Unions, with the duties usual in such positions.

4. **The Convention.**—An Annual Convention should be held at some accessible point, made up of all Christian Endeavorers who may attend. An effort should always be made to secure the

attendance of at least representatives from the various Local Unions of the State. To make the Convention that success that it may be, ample preparation should be made for it before hand. As to the program, Rev. John L. Sewall makes the following suggestions:

1. Arrange it at least three months before the meeting.
2. Have some reliable "all-round" men ready to fill vacancies, which are sure to come during the sessions.
3. Use lay-talent as much as possible in short papers and speeches.
4. For themes requiring special wisdom and discrimination call to your aid the best ability at command.
5. Have every part of the State represented in the list of speakers.
6. As to topics, divide them equally between those on specific Endeavor work, and those of broader inspiration to better Christian service.

True Yokefellows.

Our friendship sanctify and guide,
Unmixed, O Lord, with sinful pride,
Thy glory be our constant aim;
In all our intercourse below,
Still let us in thy footsteps go,
And never meet but in thy name.

IV. THE UNITED SOCIETY.

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain."—*Rev. 3:2.*

The United Society is a Bureau of Information; a natural and providential outgrowth of the Christian Endeavor movement, with a head-centre, and the officers necessary to carry on the work with which it is intrusted. Its status and work are thus set forth by Dr. Clark, the honored founder of the movement:

1. **What It is Not.**—1. It is not a body that exercises authority over any Local Society.
2. It does not ask from them any allegiance, or levy any taxes upon them in any way.
3. It does not prescribe the rules or by-laws of any Society,

but every Society under the guidance of its own church wholly regulates its own affairs.

4. It does not interfere with but promotes denominational *esprit de corps*. By all its publications it urges loyalty to the local church next to loyalty to Christ.

2. What It Does.—1. It issues different leaflets which are meant to describe the principles of the organization.

2. It provides for an annual convention, at some accessible point, in the interest of the United Endeavor Movement.

3. It publishes a weekly newspaper devoted to Christian Endeavor interests, which stands on its own merits, in the fair field of religious journalism.

4. It receives and answers a vast number of letters from all portions of Christendom, giving information on the Endeavor Work.

5. It employs no missionaries or agents, and only one secretary. Its officers very largely give their services. No paid officers are employed by the State Unions, but it is left to each pastor to establish his own Society, if he desires to do so.

6. The trustees, who represent different denominations, and embrace many eminent men, give their services and pay their own expenses incurred in the work.

7. Thus the United Society, through its chosen officers, watches over the general interest of the great Endeavor movement, helping Individual Endeavorers, by its instructions; stimulates the organization of Local Societies, by diffusing information; encourages Local Unions and State Associations, by pointing out their benefits, and arranges for great Annual General Assemblies, where the loyal hosts gather to recount their labors and triumphs, and devise great things for the future.

Christian Union.

Bind thy people, Lord, in union,
With the sevenfold cord of love;
Breathe a spirit of communion
With the glorious host above.
Let thy work be seen progressing;
Bow each heart, and bend each knee,
Till the world, thy truth possessing,
Celebrates its jubilee

V.

THE Y. P. S. C. E. REQUISITES.

I. FOR THE MEMBERSHIP.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God."—2 *Tim.* 2:15.

Young Christian Endeavorers, who would grow up into the stature of full men and women in Christ, and be real forces in carrying on the work to which they have been called, must make use of the means of growth. If they would know the will of the great Master and Leader, they must study his Word; if they would be efficient and profitable servants, they must have a knowledge of the work to be done; have the necessary requisites for doing it, and understand the best methods of using them. Among the helps which every member of the Y. P. S. C. E. should seek to possess, may be enumerated the following:

1. For General Study.—(1) *A Bible* in substantial binding, with references, concordance, maps and other helps.

(2) *The Bible Hand-Book*, an aid in the study of the Word of God, and a guide to its treasures of wisdom.

(3) *Our Young Folks*, a magazine devoted to the welfare and work of the young people, and presenting in the most attractive form such spiritual and intellectual food as will promote their growth in grace and in knowledge, and help them to be wiser, happier and better.

2. For Endeavor Work.—(1) *The Helping Hand*, the Y. P. S. C. E. Manual, which contains in the most concise form, information and directions on almost every subject relating to the Y. P. S. C. E. movement.

(2) *Our Young Folks*, the Y. P. S. C. E. Magazine noted above, which, in addition to other things, contains copious explanatory, illustrative and practical notes on the Prayer-Meeting Topics, with suggestions and helps on every phase of the Society work.

(3) *A Note-Book*, in which to jot down thoughts as they may occur, on the Prayer-Meeting Topics, and memoranda of things that should be done, and that otherwise might be forgotten.

(4) *A Scrap-Book*, in which to preserve in a convenient form gems that may be found in the newspapers bearing on the Prayer-Meeting Topics, and other subjects, as well as all items of interest concerning the Endeavor work.

(5) The Y. P. S. C. E. Badge, to be worn at all times, by which members may recognize each other when they meet, without previous acquaintance or formal introduction.

Growth.

By reading and study endeavor to know
The will of the Lord—thus in knowledge to grow;
Earnestly striving to keep his commands,
And doing the work he has placed in your hands.

II. FOR THE OFFICERS.

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”—1 Cor. 14:40.

The officers of the Society should be supplied with the requisites for doing their work in a neat and orderly way.

1. The President.—The President should of course have all the articles specified as desirable for the membership. In his *Note-Book* he should jot down any idea that may occur to him likely to be beneficial to the Society in any way; new work needing to be done; plans for improvement, and points that he may desire to bring to the attention of the Executive Committee, or the Society at large. His *Scrap-Book* should be a repository of information and statistics on the great Endeavor movement.

2. The Corresponding Secretary.—This officer needs a *Blank-Book*, in which to make a record of all official acts, and a convenient *Letter-File* in which to preserve all communications that may be received from other Societies, Local Unions, the State Association, or the United Society.

3. The Recording Secretary.—This officer requires *A Membership-Record*, in which to keep the names of all classes of members and officials in a systematic way; a *Roll-Call Book*, in which attendance is registered, and a *Blank-Book*, in which to record the minutes of all meetings of the Society, and of the Executive Committee.

4. The Treasurer.—The Treasurer should be furnished with a suitable *Cash-Book*, in which the accounts may be kept in a systematic way, and all the financial transactions of the Society faithfully recorded.

5. The Librarian.—This official requires *A Library Case*, where the books may be safely and orderly kept; *A Register*, in which to record the names of all persons entitled to the use of the library, and *Tickets* for keeping accounts with those who take out books. Such cases, registers and tickets as are commonly used in the management of the Sunday-school library will answer equally well in that of the Society.

6. The Committees.—The Secretaries of the various Committees need *Registers* in which to record all Committee proceedings, that they may be preserved among the Archives of the Society.

7. The Superintendent.—The Superintendent of the Junior Band, or Society, needs all the helps recommended for the President and the membership at large, and should be very watchful for new things of interest, as this official, more than any other in the Society, is called upon to impart instruction on Bible themes, and point out ways of usefulness for the young.

Acceptable Service.

Decently, orderly each duty do,
True to each trust that's committed to you;
Earnestly, skillfully planning with care,
Instant in service, fervent in prayer.

III. FOR THE SOCIETY.

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."—2 Tim. 3:17.

Every Society should aim to possess all requisites for making its meetings as pleasant, entertaining and profitable as possible. Among the things necessary to this end are the following:

1. Topic Cards.—These may contain, (1) Simply the Prayer-Meeting Topics, for a quarter, six months or a year; (2) The Topics, with corresponding Daily Readings; (3) The Topics, with lists of Officials and Committees for six months; or (4) The

Topics, Officers, Committees and Leaders for the same time.

2. The Christian Psalter.—This book is a Manual of Devotion, containing Responsive Bible Readings for Public Worship. It has selections suitable for almost all occasions, and it adds greatly to the interest of the Prayer-Meeting to open the exercises with a responsive service.

3. Song--Books.—There should be an abundant supply of these. It will usually be found best to have the same kind of books used in the Sunday-school, general prayer-meeting, or public worship of the church. In all the newer books of this class will be found a variety of suitable Endeavor songs.

4. Our Young Folks.—Enough copies of this Y. P. S. C. E. Magazine should be subscribed for by the Society to regularly supply visitors, who may thus be interested in the work, and all members, both Active and Associate, who do not receive it at their homes. It is a fact that those members who most need such help and instruction as such publications afford, are the least likely to provide it at their own expense.

5. The Library.—Every Society, as soon as possible, should begin the formation of a library of its own.

(1) *Character of the Books.*—The books should be of varied contents, and all pure and elevating in their teaching. They should embrace:

1. Manuals of Instruction on the Bible, and Bible topics and teaching.

2. Books bearing on the Y. P. S. C. E. movement and special work.

3. Books of Stories, presenting truth in the attractive form of narrative.

4. Books of History and Travel, containing information about home and foreign lands.

5. Books of Biography, giving the lives of prominent persons, ancient and modern, worthy of imitation.

6. Miscellaneous Works, both poetry and prose, such as breathe the Spirit of Christ, and will help and encourage the young who are endeavoring to do great things for the Lord.

(2) *The Selection of the Books.*—The books for the library should be selected by a judicious committee, which very properly

may be made up of the Pastor, the President of the Society, the Librarian, and the members of the regular Good Literature Committee. No book should be accepted till after a careful examination and approval by a member of the committee, or some other person in whose judgment they have full confidence.

(3) *Management*.—The management of the library should be in the hands of the Librarian, under such rules and regulations as the Society may order.

Thoroughly Furnished.

Thoroughly furnished the Lord's work to do,
Upward and onward our course to pursue;
The ground to prepare and the good seed to sow;
In faith, grace and knowledge daily to grow.

VI.

THE Y. P. S. C. E. FORMULÆ.

I. THE LOCAL SOCIETY.

"See that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee."—
Heb. 8: 5.

MODEL CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This Society shall be called the _____
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

Its object shall be to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to make them more useful in the service of God.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

The members shall consist of three classes: Active, Associate, and Affiliated, or Honorary.

1. Active.—The Active Members shall consist of young Christians who sincerely desire to accomplish the objects above specified.

2. Associate Members.—Any young person of worthy character may become an Associate Member, though not a professed Christian. Such members are expected to attend the prayer-meetings, but may be excused from taking part in the services.

3. Affiliated Members.—Persons of any age, of good character, who are interested in the objects of the Society, may become Affiliated Members. The attendance of such members at the meetings shall not be required, but they are expected to do what they can to promote the interests of the Society.

These different classes shall become members by vote of the Society, after they have read and approved the Constitution.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

1. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian who shall be chosen from among the Active Members.

2. There shall be a Lookout Committee, a Prayer-Meeting Committee, a Social Committee, and such others as the local needs of each Society may require, each consisting of five Active members. There shall be also an Executive Committee, as Provided in Article VI.

ARTICLE V.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

1. President.—The President of the Society shall perform the duties usually pertaining to that office, presiding at its meetings, and watching over all the interests of the Society.

2. Vice-President.—The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence.

3. Corresponding Secretary.—It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct the general correspondence of the Society, acting as the medium of communication between the Society and other similar organizations.

4. Recording Secretary.—It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of the members; correspond with

absent members, and inform them of their standing; keep the minutes of all business meetings, and notify all persons elected to office.

5. Treasurer.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to safely keep all moneys belonging to the Society and to pay out only such sums as shall be voted by the Society.

6. Librarian.—It should be the duty of the Librarian to care for the books belonging to the Society, under such regulations as may be established.

ARTICLE VI.—DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

1. Lookout Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to bring new members into the Society; to introduce them to the work and to the other members, and to affectionately look after and reclaim any that seem indifferent to their duties, as outlined in the pledge. This Committee shall also, by personal investigation, satisfy itself of the fitness of young persons to become members of this Society, and shall propose their names at least one week before their election to membership.

2. Prayer-Meeting Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to have in charge the Prayer-Meeting, and to see that a topic is assigned and a leader appointed for every meeting, and to do what it can to secure faithfulness to the Prayer-Meeting Pledge.

3. Social Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to promote the social interests of the Society by welcoming strangers to the meetings, and by providing for the mutual acquaintance of the members by occasional sociables, for which any appropriate entertainment of which the Church approves, may be provided.

4. Executive Committee.—This Committee shall consist of the Pastor of the Church, the Officers of the Society, and the Chairmen of the various Committees. All matters of business requiring debate shall be brought first before this Committee, and by it reported favorably or adversely to the Society. Recommendations concerning the finances of the Society shall also originate with this Committee.

Each Committee, except the Executive, shall make a report in writing to the Society, at the monthly business meetings, concerning the work of the past month.

ARTICLE VII.—THE PRAYER-MEETING.

1. All the Active Members shall be present at every meeting, unless detained for some reason they could conscientiously give to their Master, Jesus Christ, and shall take some part, however slight, in every meeting, if time permit.

2. Once each month a Consecration or Experience Meeting shall be held, at which each Active Member shall speak concerning his progress in the Christian life, or renew his vows of consecration. If any one chooses, he can express his feelings by an appropriate verse of Scripture or other quotation.

3. At each Consecration or Experience Meeting the roll shall be called, and the responses of the Active Members who are present, shall be considered as a renewed expression of allegiance to Christ.

4. If any Active Member of this Society is absent from this monthly meeting and fails to send an excuse, the Lookout Committee is expected, in a brotherly spirit, to ascertain the reason of the absence. If any Active Member of the Society is absent and unexcused for three consecutive monthly meetings, such a one ceases to be a member of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII.—BUSINESS-MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

1. Business-Meetings may be held at the close of the evening Prayer-Meeting, or at any other time on call of the President.

2. An election of the Officers and Committees shall be held once in six months. Names may be proposed by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President.

ARTICLE IX.—RELATION TO THE CHURCH.

This Society being a part of the Church, the Pastor, Deacons, Elders and Sunday-school Superintendent shall be *ex-officio* Honorary Members.

ARTICLE X.—WITHDRAWALS.

Any member who may wish to withdraw from the Society shall state the reasons in writing to the Lookout Committee and Pas-

tor, and if these reasons seem sufficient, such person may be allowed to withdraw.

ARTICLE XI.--AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be changed or amended at any regular Business-Meeting, by a two-thirds vote of all members present, provided that notice of such amendment be given in writing, and recorded by the Secretary, one month before such amendment is acted upon.

MODEL BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall hold Prayer-Meetings on-----evening of each week, to continue one hour. The last regular Prayer-Meeting of the month shall be a Consecration meeting, at which the roll of Active and Associate Members shall be called.

ARTICLE II.

This Society shall hold its regular Business-Meeting in connection with the first regular Prayer-Meeting in the month. Special Business-Meetings at the call of the President.

ARTICLE III.

1. The election of Officers and Committees shall be held at the first Business-Meeting in-----

2. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President, of which the Pastor may be a member *ex-officio*.

3. While members on the Board of Officers or Committees should be distributed as evenly as the good of the Society will warrant, these positions should not be considered places of honor to be striven for, but simply opportunities for increased usefulness. When a member has been fairly elected, it is expected that he or she will consider the office a sacred trust, to be conscientiously accepted and never to be declined except for most urgent and valid reasons.

ARTICLE IV.

1. Applications for membership may be made on printed forms, supplied by the Lookout Committee, and returnable to them for consideration.

2. Names may be proposed at the close of the Consecration meetings, and shall be voted on by the Society at the following Business-Meeting. The Lookout Committee may also, in order to satisfy itself of the Christian character of the candidate, present to all candidates for active membership, to be signed, the following:

PLEDGE.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise him that I will strive to do whatever he would like to have me do; that I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day, and to support my own church in every way, especially by attending all her regular and mid-week services, unless prevented by some reason which I can conscientiously give to my Saviour, and that, just so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will endeavor to lead a Christian life.

As an Active Member I promise to be true to all my duties, to be present at and to take some part, aside from singing, in every Christian Endeavor Prayer-Meeting, unless hindered by some reason which I can conscientiously give to my Lord and Master. If obliged to be absent from the monthly consecration meeting of the Society I will, if possible, send at least a verse of Scripture to be read in response to my name at roll-call.

Signed.....

ARTICLE V.

Persons who have forfeited their membership may be re-admitted on the recommendation of the Lookout Committee and Pastor, and a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular Business-Meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

New members shall sign the Constitution and By-Laws within four weeks from their election, to confirm the vote of the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

Any who cannot accept the office to which they may be elected, shall notify the President in writing before the next Business-Meeting, at which the vacancies shall be filled.

ARTICLE VIII.

Membership tickets may be furnished members of the Society and other suitable persons, admitting them to socials.

ARTICLE IX.

The Lookout Committee shall read the names of any who may cease to be members, and give the reason why their names should be taken from the list.

ARTICLE X.

Letters of Introduction to other Christian Endeavor Societies shall be given to members *in good standing*, who may wish to become members of another Society.

ARTICLE XI.

Other Committees than those provided for in the Constitution, may be added, according to the needs of local Societies, with duties as follows:

1. Sunday--School Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to endeavor to bring into the Sunday-school those who do not attend elsewhere, and to cöoperate with the Superintendent and officers of the school in any ways which they may suggest for the benefit of the Sunday-school.

2. The Calling Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to have a special care for those among the young people who do not feel at home in the church, to call on them and to remind others where calls should be made.

3. Music Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide for the singing at the young people's meeting, and also to turn the musical ability of the Society into account, when necessary, at public religious meetings.

4. Missionary Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide for occasional missionary meetings, to interest the members of the Society in missionary topics, and to aid in any manner which may seem practicable, the cause of home and foreign missions.

5. Flower Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide flowers for the pulpit and to distribute them to the sick at the close of the Sunday services.

6. Temperance Committee.—It shall be the duty of this

Committee to do what may be deemed best to promote temperance principles and sentiment among the members of the Society.

7. Relief Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to do what it can to cheer and aid, if possible and necessary, by material comforts, the sick and destitute among the young people of the Church and Sunday-school.

8. Good Literature Committee.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to do its utmost to promote the reading of good books and papers. To this end it shall do what it can to circulate religious newspapers, representing the Society, among its members, also to obtain subscribers for the papers or magazines among the families of the congregation, as the Pastor and the Church may recommend.

ARTICLE XII.

Members who cannot meet with this Society for a time, are requested to obtain Leave of Absence, which will be granted by the Society on recommendation of the Lookout Committee and Pastor, and their names shall be placed on the Absent List.

ARTICLE XIII.

——— members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE XIV.

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that notice of such amendment be given in writing and recorded by the Secretary at least one week before the amendment is acted upon.

II. JUNIOR SOCIETY.

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words.”—*Eccl. 12:10*.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This Society shall be called the Junior Society of Christian Endeavor of —————.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

Its object shall be to promote an earnest Christian life among the boys and girls who shall become members, and prepare them for the active service of Christ.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERS.

Any boy or girl between the ages of seven and thirteen inclusive, who shall be approved by the Superintendent and Assistant, may become a member of the Society by taking the following pledge:

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise him that I will strive to do whatever he would like to have me do; that I will pray and read my Bible every day; and that, just so far as I know how, I will try to lead a Christian life. I will be present at every meeting of the Society when I can, and will take some part in every meeting.

Name

I am willing that should sign this pledge, and will do all I can to help keep it.

Parent's Name

Residence

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers of the Society shall be a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary and Treasurer. There shall also be a Lookout Committee, and such other Committees as may be needed.

ARTICLE V.—DUTIES.

1. The Superintendent and Assistant shall have charge of the work of the Society.
2. The Secretary shall keep a record of the names of the members, and the minutes of the business meetings.
3. The Treasurer shall safely keep all money belonging to the Society, and pay it out only as directed by the Society on recommendation of the Superintendent.
4. The Lookout Committee shall bring new members into the Society, and affectionately look after any who may seem indifferent to their pledge.

ARTICLE VI.—ELECTION.

The Superintendent and Assistant shall be appointed by the Pastor, subject to the approval of the officers of the Church. The other officers and Committees shall be nominated by the Superintendent and Assistant, and elected by the Society. All officers shall be chosen once in six months.

ARTICLE VII.—THE PRAYER-MEETING.

A Prayer-Meeting shall be held once every week. A consecration meeting shall be held once a month, at which the pledge shall be read and the roll called, and the responses of the members shall be considered a renewal of the pledge of the Society. If any member is absent from three consecutive consecration meetings without excuse, his name shall be dropped from the list of members.

ARTICLE VIII.—INSTRUCTION.

Part of the hour of the weekly meeting shall, if deemed best, be used by the Pastor or Superintendent of the Society for instruction, or for other exercises which they may approve.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

The Society shall hold a Prayer-Meeting on _____ afternoon of each week. The last regular meeting of each month shall be a consecration meeting.

ARTICLE II.

The officers and committees shall be chosen in _____ and _____ and continue six months, beginning on the first of the month following their election.

ARTICLE III.

Special meetings of the Society may be held at any time, at the call of the Superintendent.

(NOTE.—Many Societies have a President and other Committees chosen from among the boys and girls and by them, under the direction of the Superintendent. There are many advantages in placing just as much responsibility as possible upon the mem-

bers, while they are at the same time judiciously led by some older person.)

III. THE LOCAL UNION.

“Hold fast to the form of sound words.”—2 *Tim.* 1:13.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This Society shall be called the———Christian Endeavor Union.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate the interest in Young People’s Societies of Christian Endeavor in———and vicinity, to increase their mutual acquaintance and to make them more useful in the service of God.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

Any Young People’s Society of Christian Endeavor in——— and vicinity whose Constitution in its aims and Prayer-Meeting obligations conforms generally in spirit to the “Model Constitution” may join this Society by notifying the Secretary.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers shall be a President, Vice-President and Secretary and Treasurer. The President, Vice-President and Secretary and Treasurer shall be selected from Active Members and to serve one year, remaining in office until their successors are elected. All the Presidents of the Y. P. S. C. E. forming this Union shall be Vice-Presidents of this Society. The President, Vice-President and Secretary and Treasurer shall constitute an Executive Committee to provide for the general interests of the Union.

ARTICLE V.—DUTIES.

The duties of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be the duties usually pertaining to these offices.

ARTICLE VI.—MEETINGS.

This Society shall hold meetings at such times and places as

may be determined by the Executive Committee. The President may call special meetings of the Executive Committee when he may deem it necessary.

ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all the Active Members present at any regular meeting, the amendment having been submitted in writing, and notice having been given at least four weeks before action is taken.

IV. THE STATE ASSOCIATION.

“The words of the wise are as nails fastened by the master of assemblies.”
—*Eccl. 12:11.*

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

The name of this Society shall be The——Christian Endeavor Association.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The object of this Association shall be to stimulate an interest in Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor and in Local Unions of the same, in this State, and promote their efficiency as factors in Christian life and Church work by bringing them into closer relations with each other, through conferences, reports and correspondence.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERS.

Any Young People's Society of “Christian Endeavor,” so-called, in this State, whose Constitution, in its aims and in its Prayer-Meeting obligations, conforms substantially in spirit to what is known as “The Model Constitution,” may join in this Association on its own vote to do so, communicated in writing to the Secretary of this Association, and approved by its Executive Committee. The members of any Society belonging to this Association will be entitled to all its privileges.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers of this Association shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer; whose duties shall be those usually belonging to such officers; and who, with the Presidents of the several Local Unions in this State and other persons as the Association may elect, shall constitute an Executive Committee having charge of all business not otherwise provided for. The officers and the elected members of the Executive Committee shall be chosen at each annual conference, and shall begin their terms of service at the close of the conference at which they were elected.

ARTICLE V.—MEETINGS.

The Executive Committee shall arrange for an annual conference of this Association in———or———of each year, and may arrange for other meetings of the Associations or of a part of it as they shall think best.

ARTICLE VI.—FINANCE.

At each conference a Finance Committee shall be appointed, who shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer and report thereon; and who, with the Treasurer, may, if necessary, present to the Association for its consideration some plan for raising funds for current expenses.

ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any meeting of the Association, provided notice of the proposed amendment was inserted in the call for that meeting, or was given at a previous meeting.

V. COVENANTS.

“Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them.”—*Jer. 11:6*.

I. Application for Membership.

.....189..

I,, having carefully examined the Constitution of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, would be pleased to join the Society con-

nected with the Church,
as Member, and I do hereby
agree, with God's help, to try to live up to its requirements.

Name,

Address,

II. Associate Member's Pledge.

As an Associate Member I promise to attend the Prayer-Meetings of the Society habitually, and declare my willingness to do what I may be called upon to do as an Associate Member to advance the interests of the Society.

Name,

Residence,

III. Junior Member's Pledge.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise him that I will strive to do whatever he would like to have me do; that I will pray and read the Bible every day; and that, just so far as I know how, I will try to lead a Christian life. I will be present at every meeting of the Society when I can, and will take some part in every meeting.

Name,

I am willing that should sign
this pledge, and will do all I can to help keep it.

Parent's Name,

Residence,

IV. Active Member's Pledge.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise him that I will strive to do whatever he would like to have me do; that I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day, and to support my own church in every way, especially by attending all her regular Sunday and mid-week services, unless prevented by some reason which I can conscientiously give to my Saviour, and that, just so far as I know how,

throughout my whole life, I will endeavor to lead a Christian life. As an Active Member I promise to be true to all my duties, to be present at and to take some part, aside from singing, in every Christian Endeavor Prayer-Meeting, unless hindered by some reason which I can conscientiously give to my Lord and Master. If obliged to be absent from the monthly consecration-meeting of the Society I will, if possible, send at least a verse of Scripture to be read in response to my name at the roll-call.

Signed,

Residence,

Date,

Our Vows.

Ye men and angels, witness now—
Before the Lord we speak,
To him we make our solemn vow,
A vow we dare not break:

That, long as life itself shall last,
Ourselves to Christ we yield;
Nor from his cause will we depart,
Or ever quit the field.

We trust not in our native strength,
But on his grace rely;
May he, with our returning wants,
All needful aid supply!

Guide thou, O Lord! our feet aright,
And keep us in thy ways;
And while we turn our vows to prayers,
Turn thou our prayers to praise.

VI. INVITATIONS.

“Come thou with us, and we will do thee good.”—*Num. 10:29.*

I. To the Church--Services.

DEAR FRIEND:—In the name of our Master and the minister and officials of the Church, we respectfully invite you to attend any of the services

whenever it may suit your convenience, and beg to assure you of a most hearty welcome. *Sunday Services:* Public worship at A. M., and P. M.; Sunday-school at M.; Y. P. S. C. E. Prayer-Meeting at P. M. *Mid-week Service*, evening at o'clock.

Respectfully Yours,

THE LOOKOUT COMMITTEE,

Y. P. S. C. E.

II. To the Y. P. S. C. E. Meeting.

DEAR FRIEND:—We should be much pleased to have you attend the Prayer-Meeting of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor connected with the Church, which meets in every Sunday at P. M. We are endeavoring to the best of our ability to do the Master's work, and we shall all feel encouraged by your presence and help.

Sincerely Yours,

THE LOOKOUT COMMITTEE.

(Form 1.)

III. To the Sunday--School.

DEAR FRIEND:—Being desirous of increasing the Sunday-school connected with the Church, and not finding your name on its rolls, we most cordially invite you to become a member, trusting that you will find much enjoyment in attending, and knowing that your influence will be of great assistance in promoting our success. The school meets at o'clock, M.

Truly Yours,

SUNDAY-SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

Y. P. S. C. E.

(Form 2.)

IV. To the Sunday--School.

DEAR FRIENDS:—If your children are not attending regularly elsewhere, we most earnestly invite you to allow them to become

members of the school connected with the.....
Church, which meets at o'clock, M. We can assure
you they will be heartily welcomed by our beloved Superintendent
and teachers, and that no pains will be spared to make the
school profitable and helpful to them.

Respectfully Yours,
THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
Y. P. S. C. E.

V. To the Social.

DEAR FRIEND:—The Y. P. S. C. E. connected with the
..... will give a Social at
..... on evening
..... at o'clock, to which you are
most cordially invited. If you should favor us with your pres-
ence we shall endeavor to make it pleasant for you, as we doubt
not it will be for the Society.

Respectfully Yours,
THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

Welcome.

Kindred in Christ, for his dear sake,
A hearty welcome here receive;
May we together now partake
The joys which only he can give!
Once more our welcome we repeat,
Receive assurance of our love;
Oh, may we all together meet
Around the throne of God above!

VII. REMINDERS.

“When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack
to pay it, for the Lord thy God will surely require it of
thee.”—*Deut. 23:21*.

I. To a Non-Participant.

DEAR FRIEND:—We have not heard your voice lately in the

Prayer-Meeting of our Y. P. S. C. E., which we have all solemnly pledged ourselves not only to attend, but also to actively participate in its services. Will you not be one of the first to take part in the next meeting, and will you not join us in our prayer to God for his blessings upon our Church and Society, in all their activities?

Fraternally Yours,
THE PRAYER-MEETING COMMITTEE.

II. To an Absentee.

DEAR FRIEND:—The strength of our Society lies in the voluntary covenant which we have each assumed, and this is based upon these words of our Constitution:

1. All the Active Members of the Society shall be present at every meeting, unless detained by some *absolute necessity*, and each one shall take some part, however slight, in every meeting.
2. Once each month a consecration-meeting shall be held, at which each member shall speak concerning his progress in the Christian life.
3. If any member of the Society is absent from the monthly consecration-meeting, and fails to send an excuse, the Lookout Committee is expected to take the name of such an one, and, in a kindly and brotherly spirit, ascertain the reason for the absence.

In the kindest spirit of brotherly love we send you this card to remind you that we did not hear your voice at our last monthly meeting. We were sorry to notice your absence, and hope you will be with us at each succeeding meeting.

Our next Roll-call will occur on and we hope you will be present or send an excuse.

Yours for Christian Endeavor,
THE LOOKOUT COMMITTEE.

The Wanderer's Return.

Weary of wandering from my God,
And now made willing to return,
I hear, and bow beneath the rod,
For thee, for thee alone, I mourn.

Thou knowest the way to bring me back,
My fallen spirit to restore;
Oh, for thy truth and mercy's sake,
Forgive, and bid me sin no more!

VIII. COMMENDATION.

"The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another."—*Gen. 31:49.*

I. For a Traveling Member.

The bearer of this,, is a most worthy member of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, connected with the Church at, and we take pleasure in commending to the confidence and Christian fellowship of all Endeavorers wherever lot may be cast.

Fraternally,

..... President.
..... Recording Secretary.

II. For a Retiring Member.

The bearer of this,, has been an member of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor connected with the Church at We take pleasure introducing and commending to the Society wherever this letter may be presented, trusting that may become a useful member of the same, and that the acquaintance thus made will be the means of still further advancing the Endeavor Idea: "For Christ and the Church."

Fraternally,

..... President.
..... Recording Secretary.

Mizpah.

May God, from his high throne above,
Between us watch while we're apart;
Guide us, and keep us in his love,
And make us of one mind and heart!

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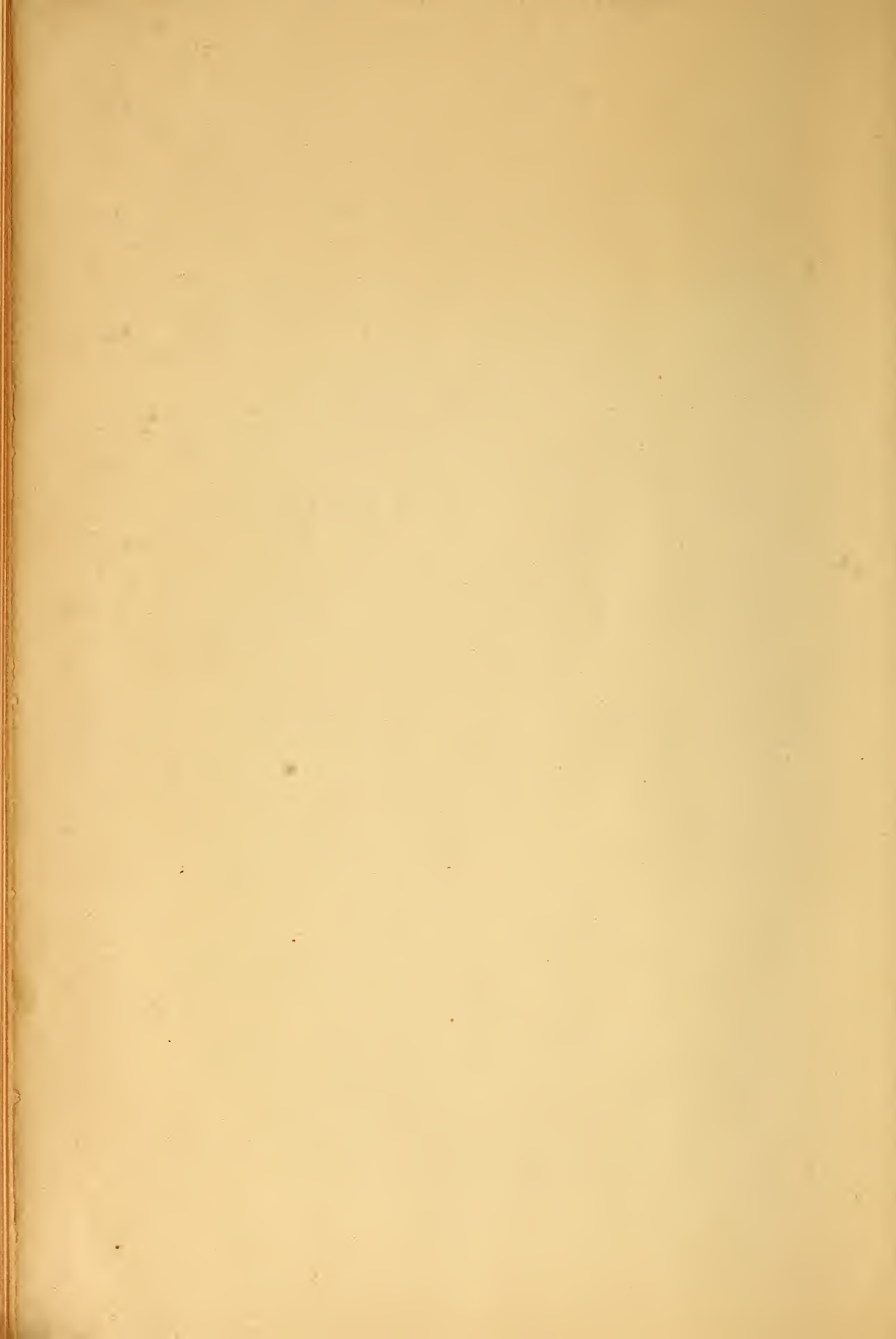
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